NABARD proposals for rural development

*4. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) proposes to raise Rs. 4,000 crores for rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are-the details of projects located in Orissa that would be funded out of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In pursuance to the announcement made in the Budget for 2006-07, a "separate window" under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-XII was created in NABARD for funding the rural Roads component of Bharat Nirman with an allocation of Rs. 4000 crore. This separate window was continued under RIDF-XIII in 2007-08 with an additional allocation of Rs. 4000 crore. The domestic commercial banks deposit funds under this "separate window" out of their shortfall in agriculture and priority sector lending targets. So far, Rs. 3193.22 crore has been disbursed.

(c) Loan assistance from NABARD is part of a bigger pool of funds for meeting the overall requirment of States for execution of projects sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). In 2007-08, Rs. 546.83 crore has been sanctioned to Orissa out of budget outlay under PMGSY.

Per capita income of tribals and non-tribals

*5. MS. MABEL REBELLO : Will the the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita income of tribal and non-tribal population in Jharkhand;

(b) what are the reasons for great disparity among different communities; and

(c) in what manner, Government proposes to increase the income of tribals?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM);(a) Government of India does not collect or maintain any data on income by social groups. However, as per National Sample Survey Organization's household consumer expenditure survey, conducted during 2004-05, the monthly per capita consumption expenditure for Schedule Tribe population in rural Jharkhand was Rs. 389.14, as against Rs. 382.81 for Scheduled Castes, Rs. 441.60 for other Backward Classes and Rs. 503.56 for others. In urban areas of Jharkhand, the corresponding figures were Rs. 653.68 for Scheduled Tribes, Rs. 718.46 for Scheduled Castes, Rs. 807.79 for other Backward Castes and Rs. 1357.89 for others.

(b) Income or consumption levels of communities depend, among other factors, on the asset base, education levels and employment profile of households in that community. Access of households to benefits from public programmes, the level of development and the nature of livelihood opportunities available in the area also have a bearing on the overall attainments and disaparties among different communities.

(c) The Central Government provides Special Central Assistance to Tribal sub-Plan, as an additive to the State Plan, to bring about a more rapid economic development of tribals in the States. Under Art. 275 (1) of the Constitution, the Central Government provides 100 per cent grants through a Central Sector Scheme covering all Tribal Sub-Plans and 4 tribal majority States of the country. At present, this Scheme releases funds to State Governments against specific infrastructure development and welfare projects. In addition, there are a number of Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes covering development of education infrastructure and improving access of tribal population to educational institutions, vocational training, development of marketing infrastructure, harnessing and processing of minor forest produce, and supporting family and area based development of tribal regions. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, targeted public distribution and other such Centrally Sponsored Schemes also benefit the Scheduled Tribes population and improve their income levels.

AIR Cargo clearance for China

*6. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has refused Government's offer of Delhi as a port of call to Chinese Cargo Carrier "Great Wall Airlines" and has held up clearances for Air India to fly to Guangzhou as was agreed to earlier, during the Chinese President's visit to lndia last November;

(b) whether plans of Jet Airways to fly to Chicago *via* Shanghai too are blocked up; and

(c) if so, what was China's demand in return for concessions sought for Air India cargo clearance and Government's response thereto, and what is the dispute still outstanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government had offered Delhi as a point of call to the Great Wall Airlines of China for all cargo operations. The Chinese side has not refused this offer, but, asked for Mumbai and Chennai also which has been agreed to by the Government provided all the procedural formalities are completed.

As per the information received from National Aviation Company of India Ltd., currently no clearance is pending with the Chinese authorities so far as operations by the national carrier is concerned.

As regards the request of Jet Airways to operate to San Francisco *via* Shanghai, the Chinese authorities have sought certain clarifications in respect of the route schedule agreed to between the two countries on 1lth April, 2005. The same has been clarified to the Chinese side through our Embassy and the response of the Chinese side is awaited.

Irregularities in Sahitya Akademi

*7. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent authors have expressed grave concern about the alleged falling standards and growing irregularities in the Sahitya Akademi;